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GEO. D. PRENTICE, Editors
PAUL H. HENDERSON, Associate Editor and Reporter
OLIVER LUMAS, Legal Editor and Reporter.

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 22, 1861.

We begin this morning the publication of the paper of Dr. Breckinridge's which we promised a few days ago. It is in all respects a magnificient production. The whole nation will read it with the loftiest admiration.

We republish the following passage from the Washington despatch in the Journal of yesterday:

Washington, Nov. 20.

At the supper given to Mr. Prentice by Col. Forney last night, Secretary Cameron expressed the opinion that, as a last resort, we ought to arm every man who dares to strike for human liberty. Secretary Smith protested that the Administration contemplated no such policy. He said, "The rebels might be armed, but it would be a disgrace to them, and they ought to give up the contest."

Mr. J. Walker and Senator McDougal followed in the same strain.

It will be observed here that Secretary Smith protests that the Administration contemplates no such policy as Secretary Cameron does not pretend to question the truth of Secretary Smith's protestation. Secretary Smith, therefore, stands in this conversation as the representative of the Administration, while Secretary Cameron stands as merely his own representative. Hence, the Administration is not responsible for the opinion expressed by Secretary Cameron. The opinion is one which he holds and expresses on his separate and individual responsibility, in opposition to the Administration of which he is a member. It is his personal opinion, not his official one—the opinion he flourishes as a man not the opinion which guides and governs him as an officer. With this consideration, if the opinion were in itself of only ordinary consequence, we might very properly be content to dismiss the subject, for Secretary Cameron as a man cannot impart particular consequences to anything. The opinion however, is not of ordinary consequence intrinsically. It is of extraordinary consequence. For this reason Mr. Cameron's manifest determination to thrust the opinion upon the public constrains us to notice it further.

We need not say, that, in this difference between Mr. Cameron and the Administration, we agree heartily with the Administration. The actual policy of the Administration, as set forth by Secretary Smith, is both right and expedient; the policy recommended by Mr. Cameron is both wrong and inexpedient. It is wrong and inexpedient in a measure utterly fatal. Moreover, it is in other respects unworthy of a virtuous and enlightened nation. It is wrong, because it proposes a step not merely unconstitutional, but radically and permanently inconsistent with the ends of the constitution. It proposes to annihilate one of the great institutions of the country as a means of national strength in the presence of all foreign nations—and therefore of national independence; as a question of permanent national strife struggling against anarchy in the form of secession; as a question of law, and government, and constitutional freedom, measuring its strength against an immense and utterly profligate political conspiracy; as a question of personal freedom, and popular institutions, in conflict with a class minority possessed of vast wealth, and reckless of everything but its own aggrandizement; as a question of the universal dominion of this daring class, not only in the slave States, so many of which had temporarily submitted, but over the nation itself, which it betrayed, plundered, insulted, and of which it claimed to dictate ignoble terms of composition, at the head of a military force threatening the capital; as a question of the safety of the nation, and of the safety of citizens, constituting that portion of the loyal citizens, consternation, and the nation's entire confidence, in the slave States—but to be an allowable basis of peace. These are questions which every enlightened man—every free citizen—is bound to ask himself. That to them involves the ruin of our liberties, may not even these, our duty as citizens, as patriots, and as Christians. It is to render such aid as we will be able, to all who will accept our aid, in deciding these vast questions, that we now attempt to develop still further the great truths we have discussed several times heretofore, and to apply them to the posture of our public affairs now existing.

There are considerations of various kinds, and of the most decisive force, which render it impossible for peace to be restored to the country, except upon the condition of a single National Government, common to the whole American people, and embracing every loyal State.

As a question of peace, it is in itself of little worth.

As a question of war, it is in itself of little worth.

As a question of national safety, it is in itself of little worth.

As a question of personal freedom, it is in itself of little worth.

As a question of popular institutions, it is in itself of little worth.

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